



August 31, 2016

RE: Endorsement of Texas Central's High-Speed Rail Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Houston (ACEC Houston) is an organization comprised of over 120 member companies employing over 5,000 employees. We endorse Texas Central's high-speed rail project connecting Houston to North Texas as an example of a fully funded private investment in a critical infrastructure project that will benefit thousands of Texans without affecting our limited public transportation dollars. Not only will this be the first high-speed rail system in the United States, it will be in Texas.

The need for an alternative mode of transportation between Houston and North Texas is very clear. This train will carry passengers between the two cities in less than 90 minutes, while estimates show that automobile travel time will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. It will help reduce traffic congestion and accidents on I45 without further stretching our limited transportation dollars.

Among the many reasons we support this project:

- It is being developed by a Texas-based private company employing a market-led approach.
- There will be opportunities for complementary transportation projects to connect to the high-speed rail further improving the mobility of Texans.
- The project is projected to generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years.
- This project will create 40,000 jobs over the four-year peak construction period plus 1,000 permanent highly skilled jobs to support the railroad's operations when it is in full service.
- The technology being deployed is the world's safest high-speed rail technology.

We are excited to support the first true high-speed passenger rail system in the United States - a transportation infrastructure project of national importance that will provide a safe, reliable, convenient and environmentally friendly travel alternative between Houston and North Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina M. Lindsay", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christina M. Lindsay
Executive Director

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES- HOUSTON

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF HOUSTON

2180 West Loop West, Suite 320 • Houston, TX • 77018 • Phone 713-426-0800 • Fax 713-426-0801 •